



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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## **CITY MOVES FORWARD WITH COMPLETE REVIEW OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING LEVELS**

MILWAUKEE -- Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderman Michael D'Amato today announced that the City of Milwaukee has retained MATRIX Consulting Group to conduct a capacity, staffing and deployment study for the Milwaukee Police Department. The study is scheduled to begin tomorrow, March 7.

"Our Police Department budget of \$214 million is nearly equal to the entire property tax levy," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "As public safety remains a priority during a time of limited resources, we must ensure that every dollar is being spent wisely and in a way that will have a positive impact on our neighborhoods."

Alderman D'Amato, a key supporter of the review added, "As city leaders it's our job to make sure our taxpayers are getting the most out of the police resources they're paying for," he said, adding: "And this comprehensive study will allow us to determine just what changes might be worth looking at."

The Common Council approved \$125,000 to conduct the study as part of the 2006 Budget. The study will examine present use of resources and make determinations on future resource allocation. In addition, the scope of the work of the study is as follows:

- To determine appropriate field service levels, assignment categories and deployment strategies
- To determine an appropriate patrol resource level and a plan for the future
- To determine the optimal deployment of existing resources and the resources needed for optimal levels of service
- To review best practices in other cities and agencies

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Additionally, the study is expected to help create benchmarks for response times for priority calls within the Department that will allow residents to measure police performance against expectations. The study will also look at existing patrol areas to determine whether they provide optimal police coverage given recent crime trends.

The last time a comprehensive review was undertaken of the staffing practices at the Milwaukee Police Department was 1985.

“The time is now to assess our current strategies and align our practices with the needs of the community,” said Mayor Barrett. “The findings in this review will allow us to take a comprehensive look at how we can more wisely allocate existing resources and how to prioritize our needs moving forward.”

Alderman D'Amato said, “Crime trends and policing strategy have changed considerably in the past 20 years. Milwaukee needs to both update and modernize the way in which we prevent and solve crimes. This study will begin that process.”

The study is expected to have preliminary recommendations as early as this summer with a full report before the Common Council in mid-September.